

935 trucking companies had closed in the first quarter of this year, and they only counted trucking companies with five trucks or more. Two weeks ago we heard in a hearing of the Aviation Subcommittee that eight airlines had shut down, had ceased operating in the last year-and-a-half, and one more was in receivership.

We are at a very dangerous point. We don't have to produce all of our oil or all of our energy, but we have got to start producing a little bit more, or these foreign energy producers are going to know they can keep on raising these prices, and as I say, they are going to hurt a lot of working and ordinary Americans in the process.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES FACING AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, last week the House went on recess to spend time in our districts commemorating our independence as a Nation. These celebrations every 4th of July are always a time to remember and honor the history of this great country. We think of the great moments when the United States of America shone as an unparalleled leader in liberty and achievement; the brave men who stormed the beaches of Normandy, followed by the Marshall Plan and the Berlin airlift; the Wright Brothers becoming first in flight; or, of course, Neil Armstrong taking that giant leap for mankind.

Perhaps above all, though, Madam Speaker, America's great moments have been expressions of great ideas. Our Nation was born out of the ideals of the Declaration of Independence. It established an enduring national philosophy based on the truth that we are all created equal and endowed by our Creator with inalienable rights.

Since that beginning, bold ideas have defined our Nation; the idea that government must be of the people, by the people, and for the people; the idea that checks and balances must be built into the very structure of government to ensure its responsiveness to the American people; the idea that every man, woman and child has the right to freely practice their faith; the idea that all ideas should be allowed to be freely expressed. This is our history and our heritage.

But Independence Day is not just a time to reflect on our past. It is also an opportunity to consider where we are headed. I believe that today, we as

Americans are currently grappling with very fundamental philosophical questions, and answers to these questions will present complex challenges in their implementation.

A central question is how to apply our core principles to the new challenges that we face. How do we secure ourselves against new threats without diminishing the civil liberties that we hold dear. How do we wage a war against Islamic extremism without appearing to treat those of the Muslim faith with the very intolerance that fuels extremism. How do we end the scourge of illegal immigration, while continuing to be that shining city on the hill to the many legal immigrants who have always helped to make this country the great Nation that it is.

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How do we engage in the worldwide marketplace while ensuring that Americans can successfully compete in a very dynamic economic environment?

Madam Speaker, there are those who say that America is bitterly divided today over these questions. It is certainly true that there is great diversity of opinion in how to address the security and economic challenges that we face. But if we are willing to engage each other in honest and open debate, this diversity of opinion is our great strength, not our weakness.

We as a Nation are facing substantial new challenges that demand a great clash of ideas, just as our Founders intended. Unfortunately, the recitation of inflammatory talking points has supplanted sincere and honest debate. The shrill voices of talking heads are no substitute for true engagement.

I believe Americans have grown weary of politics as usual, of the endless fighting that takes place here in Washington. But not because of the existence of opposing views. Americans have grown weary of the obstinacy, the hardened positions and intolerance of differing opinions, the refusal to truly engage in an open and substantive way.

Madam Speaker, in a country of over 300 million people, there will never be uniformity of opinion, but there can and should be a deep respect for that clash of ideas and an interest in reaching broad consensus on the great issues of our day. This is the essence of the United States of America, and it is the essence of why we last Friday celebrated our Nation's independence, the freedom of ideas, all ideas, to be debated, debunked, or developed in this messy process of democracy.

Madam Speaker, I truly believe that our country will rise to the challenges we face today, just as we have always done. And we will accomplish this through open, sometimes heated and passionate, but always respectful debate. The celebration of our independence is always at least a temporary unifier of America. But this year, we cannot afford to confine this unity to one day, the Fourth of July. I believe we should use this time to renew our

belief in a country that is bound together, not driven apart, by the clash of ideas out of which our great country was born.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. FOXX addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELLER of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHUSTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KIRK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MYRICK addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TIM MURPHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 5 minutes.